

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 ARA-06 L-03 OES-06 DLOS-06 SAL-01

SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 CIAE-00

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O R 121549Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8533

INFO USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 3766

1. DUTCH MFA LEGAL ADVISER PROFESSOR W. RIPHAGEN TELEPHONED CHARGE EARLIER TODAY TO INQUIRE WHETHER WE HAD ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING APPOINTMENT THAT HAD BEEN MADE FOR HIM DURING HIS ABSENCE ON LEAVE WITH A MR. IRWIN FLEISHMAN OF PUERTO RICO. SINCE EMBASSY UNAWARE OF PRESENCE OF FLEISHMAN, WE TOLD HIM AS MUCH. RIPHAGEN SAID HE WOULD RECEIVE FLEISHMAN AND WOULD INFORM ME ABOUT CONVERSATION SUBSEQUENTLY.

2. THIS AFTERNOON RIPHAGEN CALLED TO SAY THAT MR. FLEISHMAN WAS DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF FEDERAL AFFAIRS IN SAN JUAN AND HAD BEEN ACCOMPANIED BY RICHARD COPAKEN AND A YOUNG LADY, BOTH OF WHOM WERE WITH COVINGTON AND BURLING AND STATED THEY WERE MEMBERS OF US DELEGATION TO LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE. THEY EXPLAINED PURPOSE OF THEIR VISIT TO THE HAGUE WAS TO DEFEND US PROPOSAL ON ARTICLE 136 AND GAVE REASONS WHY COMPROMISE DUTCH FORMULA WAS UNACCEPTABLE SINCE IT DID NOT COVER PUERTO RICO. PROFESSOR RIPHAGEN TOLD THEM THAT DUTCH PROPOSAL REPRESENTED COMPROMISE WITHIN EC-9 SINCE FRANCE FOUND US PROPOSAL UNACCEPTABLE. HE ADDED THAT DUTCH NATURALLY DID NOT INTEND TO HAMPER LEGITIMATE PUERTO RICAN INTERESTS. HE ALSO INFORMED THEM THAT CHIEFS OF EC-9 DELEGATIONS TO LOS CONFERENCE WOULD BE MEETING JULY 14-15 IN BRUSSELS AND THAT HE WOULD LOOK AGAIN AT DUTCH PROPOSAL IN LIGHT OF CONVERSATION, THOUGH HE WAS CAREFUL TO MAKE NO COMMITMENT.

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3. RIPHAGEN SAID HE WANTED TO INFORM EMBASSY OF CONVERSATION IN DETAIL BECAUSE IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT US CONDUCTED FOREIGN RELATIONS ON BEHALF OF PUERTO RICO. HE SPECIFICALLY ASKED THAT EMBASSY QUERY DEPARTMENT CONCERNING STATUS OF THREE INDIVIDUALS WHO CALLED UPON HIM AND WHETHER THEY IN FACT SPOKE FOR USG.

4. REQUEST DEPARTMENT PROVIDE EMBASSY URGENTLY WITH ESSENTIAL INFORMATION ON ABOVE APPROACH TO DUTCH SO THAT WE CAN BRIEF PROFESSOR RIPHAGEN PRIOR TO EC-9 CONSULTATIONS JULY 14. WE ARE SOMEWHAT CONCERNED THAT INDEPENDENT PUERTO RICAN INITIATIVE OF THIS CHARACTER COULD BE MISUNDERSTOOD HERE AND LEAD TO CONFUSION ABOUT OUR POSITION ON PUERTO RICAN STATUS AS IT MAY ARISE IN UNGA.  
BROWN

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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